Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Previously Presented) A shipping management computer system, said computer system programmed to:

receive from each respective user of a plurality of users a respective input of a particular respective origin postal code and a particular respective destination postal code, wherein each respective user accesses the shipping management computer system over a global communications network using a respective user client computer device, and wherein each respective user client computer device is adapted for communication with the global communications network;

for each respective input by each respective user of a particular respective origin postal code, determine a carrier-specific respective origin rating zone identifier corresponding to the particular respective origin postal code for each of a plurality of carriers; and

for each respective input by each respective user of a particular respective destination postal code, determine a carrier-specific respective destination rating zone identifier corresponding to the particular respective destination postal code for each of the plurality of carriers.

2.   (Previously Presented) The shipping management computer system of Claim 1, said computer system further programmed to:

receive a request from a particular respective user for a preview of shipping rates for shipping a particular respective parcel according to a set of parcel specifications input by the particular respective user;

in response to the request for the preview of shipping rates, calculate a respective preview shipping rate for each of a plurality of services offered by

each of the plurality of carriers for shipping the particular respective parcel according to a set of parcel characteristics shipping rules for the particular carrier and according to a set of pricing rules for each particular service offered by the particular carrier as applied to the set of parcel specifications for the particular respective parcel and as applied to the corresponding carrier-specific respective origin rating zone identifier and the corresponding carrier-specific respective destination rating zone identifier.

3.   (Previously Presented) A method using a computer system for managing shipping of a plurality of parcels shipped by any one of a plurality of carriers, the method comprising:

receiving from each respective user of a plurality of users a respective input of a particular respective origin postal code and a particular respective destination postal code, wherein each respective user accesses the shipping management computer system over a global communications network using a respective user client computer device, and wherein each respective user client computer device is adapted for communication with the global communications network;

for each respective input by each respective user of a particular respective origin postal code, determining a carrier-specific respective origin rating zone identifier corresponding to the particular respective origin postal code for each of a plurality of carriers; and

for each respective input by each respective user of a particular respective destination postal code, determining a carrier-specific respective destination rating zone identifier corresponding to the particular respective destination postal code for each of the plurality of carriers.

4.   (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 3, said method comprising:

receiving a request from a particular respective user for a preview of shipping rates for shipping a particular respective parcel according to a set of parcel specifications input by the particular respective user;

in response to the request for the preview of shipping rates, calculating a respective preview shipping rate for each of a plurality of services offered by each of the plurality of carriers for shipping the particular respective parcel according to a set of parcel characteristics shipping rules for the particular carrier and according to a set of pricing rules for each particular service offered by the particular carrier as applied to the set of parcel specifications for the particular respective parcel and as applied to the corresponding carrier-specific respective origin rating zone identifier and the corresponding carrier-specific respective destination rating zone identifier.

5. (Previously Presented) A computer program product embodying computer program instructions for execution by a computer system for managing shipping of a plurality of parcels shipped by any one of a plurality of carriers, the computer program product comprising:

a set of program instructions, that when executed by a computer system, would cause the computer system to receive from each respective user of a plurality of users a respective input of a particular respective origin postal code and a particular respective destination postal code, wherein each respective user accesses the shipping management computer system over a global communications network using a respective user client computer device, and wherein each respective user client computer device is adapted for communication with the global communications network;

a set of program instructions, that when executed by the computer system, would cause the computer system, for each respective input by each respective user of a particular respective origin postal code, to determine a carrier-specific respective origin rating zone identifier corresponding to the particular respective origin postal code for each of a plurality of carriers; and

a set of program instructions, that when executed by the computer system would cause the computer system, for each respective input by each respective user of a particular respective destination postal code, to determine a carrier-specific respective destination rating zone identifier corresponding to the

particular respective destination postal code for each of the plurality of carriers.

6.   (Previously Presented) The computer program product of Claim 5, said computer program product comprising:

a set of program instructions, that when executed by the computer system, would cause the computer system to receive a request from a particular respective user for a preview of shipping rates for shipping a particular respective parcel according to a set of parcel specifications input by the particular respective user;

a set of program instructions, that when executed by the computer system, would cause the computer system, in response to the request for the preview of shipping rates, to calculate a respective preview shipping rate for each of a plurality of services offered by each of the plurality of carriers for shipping the particular respective parcel according to a set of parcel characteristics shipping rules for the particular carrier and according to a set of pricing rules for each particular service offered by the particular carrier as applied to the set of parcel specifications for the particular respective parcel and as applied to the corresponding carrier-specific respective origin rating zone identifier and the corresponding carrier-specific respective destination rating zone identifier.

7.   (Withdrawn) A shipping management computer system that is configured for:

receiving, from a first client computer that is connected to communicate with said shipping management computer system via a global communications network, a set of first-item shipping specifications associated with delivering a first item from a first-item origin to a first-item destination, said set of first-item shipping specifications comprising: (A) a first-item origin postal code corresponding to said first-item origin, and (B) a first-item destination postal code corresponding to said first-item destination;

identifying a first first-item carrier that would deliver said first item in accordance with said first-item shipping specifications;

identifying a first first-item origin rating zone identifier that corresponds to said first-item origin postal code;

identifying a first first-item destination rating zone identifier that corresponds to said first-item destination postal code;

using said first first-item origin rating zone identifier and said first first-item destination rating zone identifier to calculate a first first-item service charge that said first first-item carrier would charge to deliver said first item from said first-item origin to said first-item destination;

identifying a second first-item carrier that would deliver said first item in accordance with said first set of shipping specifications;

identifying a second first-item origin rating zone identifier that corresponds to said first-item origin postal code;

identifying a second first-item destination rating zone identifier that corresponds to said first-item destination postal code; and

using said second first-item origin rating zone identifier and said second first-item destination rating zone identifier to calculate a second first-item service charge that said second first-item carrier would charge to deliver said first item from said first-item origin to said first-item destination.

8.   (Withdrawn) The shipping management computer system of Claim 7, wherein said shipping management computer system is configured for receiving said set of first-item shipping specifications from said first client computer via said global communications network.

9.   (Withdrawn) The shipping management computer system of Claim 7, wherein said shipping management computer system is further configured for displaying said first first-item service charge and said second first-item service charge on a display screen associated with said first client computer.

10.   (Withdrawn) The shipping management computer system of Claim 7, wherein said shipping management computer system is further configured for:

receiving, from a second client computer that is connected to communicate with said shipping management computer system via said global communications network, a set of second-item shipping specifications associated with delivering a second item from a second-item origin to a second-item destination, said set of second-item shipping specifications comprising: (A) a second-item origin postal code corresponding to said second-item origin, and (B) a second-item destination postal code corresponding to said second-item destination;

identifying a first second-item carrier that would deliver said second item in accordance with said second-item shipping specifications;

identifying a first second-item origin rating zone identifier that corresponds to said second-item origin postal code;

identifying a first second-item destination rating zone identifier that corresponds to said second-item destination postal code;

using said first second-item origin rating zone identifier and said first second-item destination rating zone identifier to calculate a first second-item service charge that said first second-item carrier would charge to deliver said second item from said second-item origin to said second-item destination;

identifying a second second-item carrier that would deliver said second item in accordance with said second-item shipping specifications;

identifying a second second-item origin rating zone identifier that corresponds to said second-item origin postal code;

identifying a second, second-item destination rating zone identifier that corresponds to said second-item destination postal code; and

using said second second-item origin rating zone identifier and said second second-item destination rating zone identifier to calculate a second second-item service charge that said second second-item carrier would charge to deliver said second item from said second-item origin to said second-item destination.

11.   (Withdrawn) The shipping management computer system of Claim 10, wherein said shipping management computer system is configured for receiving said set of second-item shipping specifications from said second client computer via said global communications network.

12.   (Withdrawn) The shipping management computer system of Claim 10, wherein said shipping management computer system is further configured for:

displaying said first first-item service charge and said second first-item service charge on a display screen associated with said first client computer; and

displaying said first second-item service charge and said second second-item service charge on a display screen associated with said second client computer.